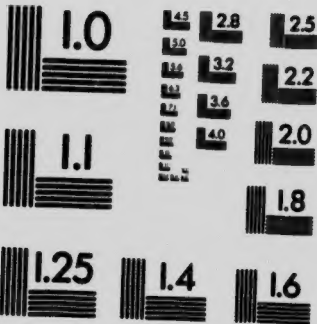


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PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (HORTICULTURAL BRANCH).

VARIETIES OF FRUIT RECOMMENDED FOR COMMERCIAL PLANTING.

COMPILED BY R. M. WINSLLOW, B.S.A., PROVINCIAL HORTICULTURIST.

BECAUSE of the time entailed in getting out the bulletin on the "Varieties of Fruit recommended for Planting in British Columbia," it has been thought advisable to prepare a summary. This is to be distributed during the winter short courses. The bulletin itself may be had on application to the Department of Agriculture after the end of March.

LISTS OF DISTRICTS.

The whole of the Province of British Columbia has been divided into districts, of which there are sixteen in number.

Under each district heading there are discussed the facts concerning its climate, altitude, area, present production, types of fruit most suitable, transportation facilities, soils, markets, and other considerations affecting its fruit-growing possibilities. It has been beyond the scope of this circular to go into these in any detail, but the Department is at the service of any intending fruit-grower who desires further information that will guide him in the choice of varieties or the planting and care of his orchard.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

First of all, the experience of the members of the Board of Horticulture, which is composed of practical fruit-growers, has been drawn upon. Prominent fruit-growers and shippers throughout the Province have also been consulted, and both the Department of Agriculture and the intending fruit-grower owe much to these gentlemen who have put this information at their disposal.

The staff of the Horticultural Branch of the Department has also been called on for information, as well as the Markets Commissioner whom the Province has stationed on the Prairie to study conditions there.

The British Columbia Fruit-growers' Association, composed of the fruit-growers from all over the Province, has also contributed considerable information on the variety question.

In drawing on these sources of information, it will be seen that the Department of Agriculture has done practically everything possible to secure what experience could tell as to the conduct of the different varieties of fruit.

But the fruit industry, even in the oldest districts, is still comparatively young, and many of these districts cannot supply the necessary information on certain varieties. In order to supply this information, it has been found necessary to study the meteorological conditions under which each type of fruit reaches its greatest perfection, whether in Canada or the North-western States. These observations have then been applied to various districts in the Province.

FACTORS INFLUENCING CHOICE OF VARIETIES.

(1.) *The Growing Season.*—In the choice of varieties, the length of the growing season is important, because many varieties, otherwise suitable, cannot reach maturity in an insufficiently long season. The temperature of the growing season is almost of as much importance as its duration, and has to be taken into consideration, together with the amount of sunshine, the humidity of the atmosphere, precipitation, wind or absence of wind, late spring and early fall frost, as well as the liability to cloudiness, haze, and fog, which are more or less likely to occur on the Coast.

(2.) *Relation of Winter Climate to the Choice of Varieties.*—Varieties are considered from the standpoint of their ability to withstand winter injuries, which may be caused either by excessive cold or from breaking down by heavy fall of snow.

(3.) *Altitude.*—The maximum altitude for commercial fruit-production is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 2,400 feet, except in specially favoured localities. None of the Interior fruit sections have an altitude of less than 800 feet, and the average altitude at which fruit is being produced with success commercially is between 1,200 and 1,600 feet.

(4.) *Influence of Orchard-sites on Choice of Varieties.*—The proximity of the orchard to large bodies of water has beneficial effect in the prevention of frosts, in the modification of winter temperature, and in increasing the humidity of the air. The slope of the land is also important in keeping down the cost of operation, as well as in securing the greatest benefit from the sun, especially in the Coast districts.

(5.) *Fruit-growing Soils.*—The soils of the Coast suited to fruit-growing are, generally speaking, of recent origin, while those of the Interior are practically all of an ancient character. In both cases there is a wide variation in type.

(6.) *Type of Soil.*—The surface soil as well as subsoil will have to be given serious consideration before selecting any class of fruit. The soil, to secure best results, should be reasonably deep, well drained, and with abundant plant-food and moisture.

(7.) *The Pollination Problem.*—There are few varieties of apples or pears that can be fertilized by their own pollen, and occasionally instances have been found where the pollen of certain varieties will not fertilize any other variety on which it has been artificially tried. No pollination studies have been conducted in British Columbia, but our recommendation to each intending planter is that he put in from two to five varieties of one kind of fruit in blocks of not more than four rows of each kind. To pollinate successfully, varieties must bloom at the same time.

(8.) *The influence of Varied Characteristics.*—In selecting varieties, other influences have to be taken into account, such as fruitfulness and yearly habit of bearing, also the quality, size, colour, uniformity, and freedom from blemish of the fruit.

(9.) *Prospective Production.*—Fewer varieties should be planted, and attention paid, when setting out a young orchard, to the varieties grown in the district.

(10.) *How many Kinds to plant.*—This depends on conditions, but for the greater part of the plantings to be made in this Province, where the market is a distant one, and where the fruit is to be handled co-operatively by the growers' organization, it is infinitely better for each grower to restrict himself to from three to five varieties.

(11.) *Influence of Transportation Facilities.*—The cost of transportation has an intimate bearing on the profits with every type of fruit. Orchards so situated and of such varieties that they cannot make up car-load lots are handicapped to an extent which a man who has only reached the planting stage can hardly realize. The people of each new district should get together and plan the development of the district in such a way that but few varieties will be planted and car-load shipments made possible.

(12.) *Markets.*—Do not plant a variety on the fashion of the moment, but plant varieties which have a real intrinsic merit, and which, from the character of their fruit, are likely to meet a stable market for a considerable period.

The demand for fruit from the Prairies is increasing tremendously with their rapid growth in population and in wealth.

We have never supplied one-fifth of the demand for strawberries, and the demand for other small fruits is largely supplied by imported fruit. Sweet cherries are in good demand, dark varieties being preferred. Early plums have always paid a remunerative price, and the same is true in most cases of late plums and prunes. Peach prices are liable to be comparatively unremunerative for several years. The demand for pears has been fairly good, and we believe that recent, as well as future, extensive plantings are warranted.

We have also the Coast markets to look to, as well as foreign markets, such as Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand, each of which will have to be entered to according to its demands. The markets of China, Japan, Philippines, and India have barely been touched yet, but promise to take quite a large quantity of apples in a few years.

LISTS OF VARIETIES FOR COMMERCIAL PLANTING.

VANCOUVER ISLAND—SOUTH-EAST SECTION.

Strawberries—Sharpless, Magoon.
Raspberries—Cuthbert.
Loganberry.
Gooseberries—Oregon Champion.
Preserving Cherries—Olivet, English Morello.
Sweet Cherries—Royal Anne, Bing.
Plums and Prunes—Englebert, Italian Prune.
Pears—Bartlett, Louise Bonne, Bose, Clairgeau, Anjou.
Apples—Duchess, Wealthy, King.

LOWER MAINLAND.

Strawberries—Dunlop.
Raspberries—Cuthbert.
Gooseberries—Oregon Champion.
Blackberries—Snyder, Taylor, Evergreen.

Sweet Cherries—Royal Anne, Bing.
 Plums and Prunes—Monarch, Italian Prune.
 Pears—Bartlett, Rose, Boussock, Clairgeau, Anjou.
 Apples—Yellow Transparent, Duchess, King.

LYTTON, LILLOET, SPENCE'S BRIDGE.

Apples—McIntosh, Jonathan, Grimes Golden, Winesap Yellow Newtown.

KAMLOOPS-WALHACHIN DISTRICT.

Apples—McIntosh, Jonathan, Grimes Golden, Winesap.

SOUTHERN CENTRAL PLATEAU.

Apples—Yellow Transparent, Duchess, Wealthy, Alexander, McIntosh.

SHUSWAP LAKE.

Strawberry—Magoon.

Raspberry—Cuthbert.

Crab-apples—Transcendent.

Apples—Wealthy, McIntosh, Jonathan, Grimes Golden, Wagener, Northern Spy.

UPPER OKANAGAN LAKE.

Apples—McIntosh, Jonathan, Grimes Golden, Rome Beauty.

LOWER OKANAGAN LAKE.

Apples—McIntosh, Jonathan, Grimes Golden, Wagener, Rome Beauty.

SIMILKAMEEN.

Apples—Jonathan, Wagener, Delicious, Yellow Newtown, Winesap.

KETTLE RIVER VALLEY.

Apples—McIntosh, Jonathan, Rome Beauty, Red-cheeked Pippin, Ontario.

WEST KOOTENAY.

Plums and Prunes—Italian Prune.

Apples—McIntosh Red, Gravenstein, North Spy, Wagener, Ontario.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS TO OF ARD-PLANTERS.

Buy from reliable, established, and responsible firms. Buy only stock which has been grown by the nurseryman who sells it to you.

You are recommended to purchase stock grown under similar conditions of soil and climate. Coast-grown stock, generally speaking, does better on the Coast, and Dry Belt stock better in the Dry Belt. There are plenty of exceptions to this general rule, but the principle stands.

Buy your nursery stock in British Columbia. You get your trees quicker, and at lower cost for freight and other charges. You avoid inspection and fumigation at Vancouver, to which all imported nursery stock is subject.

In buying from agents, remember that the accredited agent will have his licence to show.

The trees as delivered should be in good health, as shown by the healthy appearance of the bark. They should be well matured, and with good strong

buds. The root systems should be large and with plenty of fibrous roots. The side shoots on the trunks of the tree should not have been removed, or at least enough of them should be left to form a head at the proper height.

Nursery stock should be removed from the railway-station promptly on the advice of the agent; it should be taken out to the place where it is to be planted, and if not to be planted immediately should be heeled in. The place where the trees are heeled in should be high, well drained, and protected from mice.

For the greater part of the Province, planting should be done in the spring. Fall planting may be done up to about the 1st of November with safety in the Kootenays, and about the middle of November on Vancouver Island.

Our nurserymen, as a rule, pack their trees carefully, and with due regard to the time they will be in transportation, so that, as a rule, stock arrives in good condition. A great deal more damage is done to the young trees by carelessness in handling and planting, especially by drying out, than can be readily believed. The greatest possible care to prevent drying out, to keep the trees vigorous, and to prevent loss of vitality in any way is the best possible insurance for a vigorous start.

Victoria, B.C., December, 1912.

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Copies of the above may be had by application to the Department at Victoria or to any Assistant Horticulturist.

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